

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A playback apparatus for playing content data, comprising:

~~providing~~ means for ~~providing not only~~ reading the content data, ~~but also~~ provision date information, and playback-permitted period information; [[and]]

a date memory configured to store the provision date information read by the means for reading, the provision date information read by the means for reading representing a latest value;

means for preventing the provision date information stored in the date memory from being updated, when the value of the provision date information stored in the date memory is later than that of the provision date information that is being read by the means for reading;  
and

~~playback~~ means for playing the content data ~~on the basis of the information provided by the providing means~~ when the provision date information stored in the date memory corresponds to the playback-permitted period information.

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (currently amended): A playback apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a medium holder [[for]] configured to detachably holding hold a recording medium which is externally provided; and

~~recording~~ means for recording provision date information and playback-permitted period information along with the content data, in the recording medium held by the medium holder.

Claims 4-5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (currently amended): A playback apparatus according to claim ~~[[5]]~~ 1, wherein said playback-permitted period information represents an end date of a playback-permitted date and/or a start date thereof.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A recording medium storing content data beforehand and being readable by a ~~computer~~ playback apparatus, said recording medium comprising: provision-date information configured to be checked by the ~~computer~~ playback apparatus and determined to be latest or not, said provision date information being ~~held in the computer~~ stored in a date memory in the playback apparatus only when the provision date information is determined to be latest; and

playback-permitted period information ~~which is~~ configured to be checked by the ~~computer~~ playback apparatus to determine whether or not ~~a period corresponding to a the~~ latest value of the provision date information ~~is satisfied~~ stored in the date memory corresponds to the playback-permitted period information, and ~~which enables to enable~~ playback of the content data when said ~~period is satisfied~~ latest value of the provision date information stored in the date memory corresponds to the playback-permitted period information.

Claim 8 (original): A producing method for producing a recording medium described in claim 7, said producing method comprising:

preparing an unused-state recording medium which can be subjected to recording only once; and

recording the provision date information and the playback-permitted period information in the unused-state recording medium along with the content data.

Claim 9 (new): A playback apparatus for playing content data, comprising:

means for reading the content data, provision date information, and playback-permitted period information;

a date memory configured to store the provision date information read by the means for reading, the provision date information read by the means for reading representing a latest value;

means for preventing the provision date information stored in the date memory from being updated, when the value of the provision date information stored in the date memory is later than that of the provision date information that is being read by the means for reading; and

means for stopping the playing of the content data when a value represented by the provision date information stored in the date memory does not correspond to the playback-permitted period information.